

7-13-08

Brazil champ aims for city title

Petreca, No. 1 seed
in Ann Arbor event,
does juggling act

BY JEFF ARNOLD
The Ann Arbor News

Victor Petreca's morning was stressful enough without having to deal with a change of competitive scenery.

Steady rain on Saturday temporarily moved the Ann Arbor City Singles Tennis Tournament indoors – the last place Petreca wanted to be while making his bid for a berth in today's semifinals.

Before playing, the top seed in the men's open division already had made a hurried airport run to pick up his mother, Marly, who arrived late from Brazil to see her son play for the first time in five years.

So when the skies cleared again, moving play back outdoors at the University of Michigan's Varsity Tennis Center, Petreca – who spent his entire junior career playing on clay – couldn't have been more relieved.

"I was like, 'Thank God,'" Petreca said after knocking off Austin Taylor 6-1, 6-1 in the men's open quarterfinals.

Petreca last played in the tournament in 2006, when he reached the open finals, finishing as the runner-up.

Now, with only a semester remaining at Eastern Michigan University, Petreca plays tennis once a month while adjusting to married life and preparing for medical school.

Despite the infrequency of his play, Petreca's skills haven't diminished. An accomplished Brazilian junior champion, Petreca used a powerful baseline game to advance.

And while he entered the city championships for fun, Petreca's competitive past wouldn't allow him to fully enjoy himself.

"In my head, I still think the way I used to think when I was 16, but my body doesn't execute," Petreca said. "But I've gone from practicing four hours a day to playing once a month. So it's different."

David Seyferth knows the feeling.

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■ Tournament results, B6



LEISA THOMPSON, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Victor Petreca returns a shot in a 6-1, 6-1 win over Austin Taylor in an open division quarterfinal on Saturday.

Tennis

7-14-08

Ann Arbor City Singles Tournament

at University of Michigan's
Varsity Tennis Center

Sunday's matches

Women's open final: Yasmin Kashef d. Kendra Clark 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Women's 3.0 semifinals: Mary Reilly d. Sally Petersen 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Carol Lebonic d. Heather Hess 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. **Final:** Lebonic d. Reilly 6-4, 6-2.

Women's 3.5 semifinals: Lynn Henry d. Caroline English 6-3, 6-1; Carol Diephuis d. Heather Conway-Visser 6-2, 6-4. **Final:** Henry d. Diephuis 6-1, 6-0.

Women's 4.0 semifinals: Sherry Witmer d. Caroline Kumsta 6-2, 7-5; Nicole Nessler-Stuhec d. Sally Delange 6-3, 6-2. **Final:** Nessler-Stuhec d. Witmer 6-1, 7-5.

Men's open semifinals: Victor Petreca d. David Seyferth 7-6(2), 6-2; Sven Holcombe d. Daryl Fisher 6-4, 6-3. **Final:** Holcombe d. Petreca 6-1, 6-2.

Men's senior semifinals: Steve Jensen d. Carey Culbertson 3-6, 7-5 (ret.); Fred Chapman d. Fritz Yambrach 6-0, 6-1. **Final:** Chapman d. Jensen 6-0, 7-5.

Men's 3.0 semifinals: Tim Atkinson d. Joe Cochran 6-3, 6-3; Kevin Tang d. Michael Coffey 6-2, 6-2. **Final:** Tang d. Atkinson 6-0, 6-1.

Men's 3.5 semifinals: Syed Rafey d. Bill Woodland 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-2; Robert Gray d. Ralph McKee 6-3, 6-2. **Final:** Gray d. Rafey 6-4, 6-3.

Men's 4.0 semifinals: Pierre-Yves Emelie d. Patrick Persello-Seeefeld 6-0, 6-1; Andrew Berriz d. Freddy Peebles 4-6, 6-2, 6-3. **Final:** Berriz d. Emelie 6-2, 5-7, 6-4.

Men's 4.5 semifinals: Tim Petersen d. Joe Jankolovitz 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-2; Robert Smothers d. Rishi Narayan 6-1, 2-6, 6-4. **Final:** Petersen d. Smothers 6-1, 6-3.